

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY JULY 7, 2015

AMENDED IN SENATE APRIL 20, 2015

SENATE BILL

No. 493

Introduced by Senator Cannella
(Principal coauthor: Assembly Member Alejo)

February 26, 2015

An act to add Section ~~34885~~ 34886 to the Government Code, relating to elections.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 493, as amended, Cannella. Elections in cities: by or from districts.

Existing law generally requires all elective city offices, including the members of a city council, to be filled at large by the city electorate at a general municipal election. Existing law, at any municipal election or special election held for this purpose, authorizes the legislative body of a city to submit to the registered voters an ordinance providing for the election of members of the legislative body by district or from district, as defined, and with or without an elective mayor.

This bill would authorize the legislative body of a city *with a population of fewer than 100,000 people* to adopt an ordinance that requires the members of the legislative body to be elected by district or by district with an elective mayor without being required to submit the ordinance to the voters for approval. *The bill would require the ordinance to include a specified declaration and would require the population of the city to be determined by the most recent federal decennial census.*

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: no.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section ~~34885~~ 34886 is added to the Government
2 Code, to read:
3 ~~34885.~~
4 34886. (a) Notwithstanding Section 34871 or any other law,
5 the legislative body of a city *with a population of fewer than*
6 *100,000 people* may adopt an ordinance that requires the members
7 of the legislative body to be elected by district or by district with
8 an elective mayor, as described in subdivisions (a) and (c) of
9 Section 34871, without being required to submit the ordinance to
10 the voters for approval. *An ordinance adopted pursuant to this*
11 *subdivision shall include a declaration that the change in the*
12 *method of electing members of the legislative body is being made*
13 *in furtherance of the purposes of the California Voting Rights Act*
14 *of 2001 (Chapter 1.5 (commencing with Section 14025) of Division*
15 *14 of the Elections Code).*
16 (b) *For purposes of this section, the population of a city shall*
17 *be determined by the most recent federal decennial census.*